

# Major Lessons from the Minor Prophets

## Jonah: The Depths of God's Mercies

### Message 4: The Great Crusade

#### Jonah's change of heart?

##### **Jonah 3:1-4 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, <sup>2</sup> "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you."

<sup>3</sup> So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. <sup>4</sup> Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

Jonah's 2<sup>nd</sup> chance ...

Like \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ ...

The significance of "40 days":

- The \_\_\_\_\_ lasted 40 days. (Gen. 7:17)
- \_\_\_\_\_ fasted 40 days (Ex. 24:18)
- The \_\_\_\_\_ evaluated Canaan for 40 days. (Numb. 13:25)
- \_\_\_\_\_ defied Israel for 40 days. (1<sup>st</sup> Sam. 17:16)
- Elijah's supernatural \_\_\_\_\_ sustained him for 40 days (1<sup>st</sup> Kings 19:8)
- \_\_\_\_\_ temptations lasted 40 days. (Luke 4:2)
- Christ appeared 40 days after the \_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 1:3)

#### The unlikely response of the Ninevites and the greatest crusade in history:

##### **Jonah 3:5-9 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. <sup>6</sup> The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. <sup>7</sup> And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, <sup>8</sup> but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. <sup>9</sup> Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish."

A snapshot of **revival**:

1. An \_\_\_\_\_ preacher who \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 3)

The messenger wasn't ...

The messenger wasn't ...

The message wasn't ...

The message wasn't ...

**2 Timothy 4:1-5 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: <sup>2</sup> preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. <sup>3</sup> For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, <sup>4</sup> and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. <sup>5</sup> As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

2. A \_\_\_\_\_ people. (v. 5)

They heard the message and accepted it as from God and believed it.

This is to \_\_\_\_\_ credit and to \_\_\_\_\_!

**Ephesians 2:8 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God ...

**Romans 10:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

3. They responded in true or \_\_\_\_\_ faith. (v.5, 6, 7, 8)

**James 2:14-17 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? <sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? <sup>17</sup> So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

**Luke 3:8a (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> Bear fruits in keeping with repentance.

**Luke 3:8a (NLT)**

<sup>8</sup> Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God.

4. Their repentance was \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 8)

What were the Assyrians most know (and feared) for?

**God's response:**

***Jonah 3:10 (ESV)***

<sup>10</sup> *When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.*

What moved God's heart?

Was Jonah a false prophet?

What sort of God changes his mind?